

## **RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Minutes**

**January 23, 2006**

**Members Present:** Joel Smith, Tom Shipman, David Jerosé, Tom Hodges, Sandy Thomason, David Faircloth, Joe Reynolds, Sharon Kucyk, Lisa Curran, and Commissioner Velma Boyd-Lawson.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Susan Simpson, Parks and Recreation Director  
Chip Russell, Planning Director

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chairman David Faircloth called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

### **MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Tom Hodges made a motion to approve the minutes. Joe Reynolds seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **WELCOME - NEW MEMBERS**

The Advisory Board welcomed new members Sandy Thomason, Sharon Kucyk, and Lisa Curran. Each member introduced themselves and told about their length of service and their interest in serving on the Board.

### **ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA FROM MEMBERS**

None.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Simpson gave an update on the basketball season. The final count for this year's participation is 470. This is up about 15% from last year. Games began the first Saturday in January and will continue through March. The department is playing in three gyms currently: Flaherty Park, Wake Forest-Rolesville Middle School, and the DuBois Center. The Wake Forest-Rolesville High School gym was not available until mid-February. The age groups that would be using the High school facility are playing on Friday nights at Flaherty and some on Saturdays at the Middle School and Flaherty. Ages range from 5-17 boys and 5-15 girls.

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Director Simpson informed the group that one of their own members, Tom Hodges, has been asked to join the planning committee for the Citizen Board Member Forum. The forum is held in Greensboro each year for advisory board members. Tom Hodges and Director Simpson went last year and Mr. Hodges encouraged any other member to attend this year's forum. The dates are the first Thursday-Saturday in August (4-6th). Mr. Hodges talked about how involved other board members across the State are and what a great experience it was for him to go last year. Director Simpson is also a member of the planning committee. Their first meeting was January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Director Simpson reported that the bid package for the extension of the Smith Creek greenway from the Soccer Center down to Rogers Road has been mailed to several companies and are due back January 31. The department will hopefully move forward with this project upon Town Board approval. A \$50,000.00 Recreation Trails grant was secured for this project and has to be spent by September, 2006.

In conjunction with the current grant, Director Simpson informed the board that the next greenway project she will be submitting for a Recreation Trails grant will head north from the Soccer Center to the culvert at Dunn Creek. This culvert is in place under the new NC-98 Bypass. The grant is due February 28. The department would look to fund this project with some of the Bond money set aside for greenway construction.

Attendance for the Flaherty Park Community Center in November was 1,476 and for December was 3,256.

Director Simpson presented her Year End Report to the Board. She gave each member a copy and gave an overview of attendance in athletics, programs, pool, community center, accomplishments of the department, and work with outside agencies. The grand total for 2005 was 51,601.

David Jerosé and Sharon Kucyk asked about the timeline for the Flaherty Park Phase III construction. Director Simpson stated that it would probably be the fall before construction would begin.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Vice-Chairman David Faircloth stated that he did not have a report, but took a few minutes to again praise the efforts of former Chair Jan Ammons.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The first item of business was the discussion of bike lanes on roadways and the Town's Transportation plan. David Jerosé brought this item up in November and Director Simpson invited Planning Director Chip Russell to come and speak on this subject and especially as it relates to parks and greenways connections. Mr. Russell began by explaining that the Town is a member of CAMPO, a regional planning committee, formed to discuss transportation issues. There are 27 members of CAMPO. The CAMPO transportation plan has been adopted by Wake Forest to be their plan as well. The main focus is on roads, but some emphasis is on bicycle, greenway, and pedestrian movement. Mr. Russell explained that federal money has been allocated for transportation, but it is still not enough. He began to share what Wake Forest is doing: (1) NC-DOT has money for planning and the Town is currently in this stage; (2) the Town has applied for a NC-DOT grant for a bicycle plan. This plan would identify roads that can accommodate bike lanes like South Main Street. If the Town is funded, the Planning department will form a steering committee. David Jerosé asked if there was anything that our board could do to help get the grant. Mr. Russell said that the grant had already been submitted, so at this point nothing was necessary. Joe Reynolds reminded the group that when he, Jan Ammons, and Tom Hodges went to the regional Recreation Advisory Board meeting in Raleigh, much of the discussion centered on bike paths and greenways. Joel Smith asked what would the bike plan look at? Mr. Russell stated that the main purpose would be to show how bike lanes could provide access to schools, shopping, and parks. The plan would also incorporate bike guidelines. These were formed by a Stakeholder's group. He said that bike enthusiasts want to be in traffic and parents of children want them away from traffic. Joel Smith asked prior to this plan do we just try and retrofit a lane? Mr. Russell said that the Town maintains subdivision roads and that they can accommodate bikes on those roads. NC-DOT makes decisions about State roads. He reminded them that there is only so much money to go around. The Town must ask NC-DOT for money before any work is done for a State maintained road. Cost is always a factor with NC-DOT not only for resurfacing, but also whether they have enough land, what the topography in the area is and other factors. This is why we need a plan in place. Joe Reynolds said that Cary has developers do a lot of their work. David Jerosé asked if we know the schedule for resurfacing from NC-DOT, can we ask for the work then? Chip Russell said that we can, but that NC-DOT still only has so much money. Joel Smith asked how long it would take for this bike plan to be done? Mr. Russell stated that it would take about a year. Prior to that, the Town can ask NC-DOT for consideration of placing bike lanes on roads to be resurfaced. David Jerosé asked about North White Street? Mr. Russell said that it depends on how much land the State owns along the roadside. He said that the current road project schedule for Wake Forest includes US-1 (Capital Boulevard) and NC-98 east round-about. He also mentioned that there is an advocacy group for bike lanes. David Jerosé asked how do we contact them? The contact is: Jake Petrosky at 807-8515. Director Simpson asked the Board how they want to be involved? It would seem to make sense that one or more of our members be

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appointed to the steering committee if the Town gets the grant. Mr. Russell said that he definitely wants someone from our Board to be on the steering committee. The Board will wait to hear from Mr. Russell. The group thanked him for coming and sharing this information.

The second item of business was a discussion of evaluation information the department gathered for the 2005 youth basketball season. Director Simpson shared the evaluation form itself and told how it is on the website and that they were mailed to all returning players when registration began this year. Thirty seven (37) responses were received and thirty four (34) were positive. The one very negative response dealt with the use of the DuBois Center. Director Simpson stated that an update for the baseball/softball season will be shared when the information is available.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The only item for new business was the appointment of a nominating committee for the election of officers for the coming year. Vice-Chairman David Faircloth asked Tom Shipman to chair this committee and for Joe Reynolds and Joel Smith to serve with Mr. Shipman. Sandy Thomason made a motion to accept this group. Tom Hodges seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The election will be placed on the agenda for February.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.